

From: [Britton, Hannah E](#)
To: [University Governance](#)
Subject: CLACS Academic Programs
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:55:44 AM

Dear Members of the AP&P Committee:

My name is Hannah Britton, and I am professor in the Departments of Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies programs at KU. I am also a member of the advisory board for KU's Center for Migration Studies. I am an affiliated faculty member with the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program here at KU.

I am writing to strongly support the continuation of all the academic programs in CLACS. I frequently have students, both undergraduate and graduate, from the program in my classes, attending my on campus programs, or in my office hours for career mentorship. They are outstanding students, and they demonstrate the value of interdisciplinary and area studies education. Students from this programs have gone on to graduate school, law school, or other careers. These students have worked with non-governmental organizations, in teaching, and in advocacy. I have had students who combine these programs with language study at KU, and they are able to uses these skills in their chosen careers. One student that I know used the knowledge, language and cultural skills he gained at KU to work in a hospital as an advocate and translator for migrant and non-English speaking families who sought care. Another student began working with a law firm that specializes in working with migrant families. The intellectual home provided by these academic programs benefits not only the intellectual life on campus but also the future careers of our students and their communities.

Additionally, more and more academic programs around the country are requiring that candidates for tenure-track jobs have demonstrable graduate training in these areas. They are requiring evidence of graduate training in the form of graduate certificates and MA degrees. For our students planning to pursue tenure-track positions, they will need this official academic credential.

I strongly support the CLACS academic programs, and I hope that you recommend their continuation and full support.

Best,
Hannah Britton